UNITED NATIONS **A S**

General Assembly
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A/53/67
S/1998/122
13 February 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION OF AND AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY - PREVENTION OF THE VIOLENT DISINTEGRATION OF STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 12 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As Chairman of the group of Central American countries, including the Dominican Republic, I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of the joint communiqué issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic, in San José on 10 February 1998 relating to the threats to international peace and security arising out of the position of the Government of Iraq of not permitting the team of inspectors from the United Nations Special Commission to inspect all the sites and areas required for the exercise of its mandate.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait" and "Maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ricardo G. CASTANEDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Joint communiqué

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic, meeting on the occasion of the Fourteenth Ministerial Conference on Political Dialogue and Economic Cooperation between the European Union and the Member States of the Central American Integration System, held in San José on 10 February 1998, have decided to issue the following joint communiqué:

1. The Central American countries and the Dominican Republic share the concern of the international community at the deterioration of the situation in Iraq, which poses a serious threat to international peace and security.

2. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Central America and the Dominican Republic, in noting this problem, urge the Government of Iraq to comply with all the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and, in particular, to authorize the resumption of inspections by the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) of all the sites and locations required by its mandate.

3. The Ministers reiterate their belief that all diplomatic efforts must be made and all possible channels exhausted in order to resolve this issue peacefully. Such efforts must include the good offices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by the Charter of the Organization.

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13 February 1998

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LETTER DATED 13 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith, on behalf of Chief Tom Ikimi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the text of a press statement on the situation in Sierra Leone.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ibrahim A. GAMBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-03367 (E) 130298

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Annex

Press statement on the situation in Sierra Leone

We have continued to monitor developments in Sierra Leone and believe that the international community has followed the events in that country also with keen interest.

With the signing of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) peace plan on Sierra Leone at Conakry in October 1997, it had been hoped that tne junta in Sierra Leone would cooperate fully with ECOWAS in the implementation of the agreement, particularly with respect to the deployment of the forces of the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in the country to carry out the disarmament and demobilization aspects of the peace plan. Regrettably, the junta has acted consistently in breach of the agreement and has exhibited attitudes designed to frustrate the peace process and entrench itself in office. Meanwhile, ECOMOG forces which have been peacefully deployed in parts of Sierra Leone have become targets of unprovoked and incessant attacks by the junta. The present engagement of ECOMOG forces with the junta in Sierra Leone was the direct result of these unprovoked attacks, launched by elements of the illegal regime against the ECOMOG peacekeeping forces.

We have always made it clear that the rules of engagement for peacekeeping provide that ECOMOG forces defend themselves if attacked. Therefore, the junta in Sierra Leone was in no doubt as to the consequences of their reckless actions.

We have now received information that Freetown as well as most parts of Sierra Leone are now firmly under the control of ECOMOG forces and are satisfied that this has been achieved with a minimum loss of lives. We congratulate the new Force Commander of ECOMOG, Major-General Timothy Shelpidi, and the ECOMOG High Command for their professionalism, determination and commitment to implement the ECOWAS mandate. We commend, in particular, the Commander of the ECOMOG forces in Sierra Leone, Colonel Maxwell Kobe, and his men for their courage and gallantry in carrying out their assignment.

We call upon the remnants of the junta in Sierra Leone, most of whom are now on the run, scattered in the countryside of Sierra Leone, to cooperate fully with ECOMOG in the implementation of its mandate, leading to the full restoration of the legitimate Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah in line with the ECOWAS peace plan.

Now that ECOMOG has control of most parts of the country, we call upon all friends of Sierra Leone to assist in the urgent tasks of bringing humanitarian relief to the people of Sierra Leone. ECOMOG, for its part, is now taking steps to establish safe and secure havens for the people of Sierra Leone and credible corridors and security for the distribution of relief materials.

We urge the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, to facilitate the deployment of the United Nations military observer mission to Sierra Leone, now that its safety in the country can be guaranteed. We call

upon the international community to assist ECOMOG in the pursuit of its mission in Sierra Leone.

We reaffirm our commitment to the full implementation of the ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone, leading to the reinstatement of the legitimate Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah by 22 April 1998.

Further, we express our appreciation to members of the international community for the support accorded to ECOWAS and to the ECOWAS Ministerial Committee of Five on Sierra Leone during the past months in the task of resolving the crisis in Sierra Leone. We look forward to their continued support.

We are awaiting a detailed report from the ECOMOG Force Commander in order that appropriate recommendations could be made to the Chairman of ECOWAS, General Sani Abacha, in furtherance of the implementation of the objectives of the ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone.

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Security Council

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S/1998/124
16 February 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 15 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued between 5 and 11 February 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause damage to public and private property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-03394 (E) 170298 170298

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Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 5-11 February 1998

1. In the northern region 56 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar.

2. In the southern region 799 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Habbariyah, Basrah, Hayy, Shatrah, Amarah, Diwaniyah, Rifa'i, Nukhayb, Qal'at Salih, Taqtaqanah, Ali al-Sharqi, Abu Sukhayr and Qal'at Sukkar.

3. Four violations were committed by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 1210 and 1235 hours on 1 February 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

5. On 4 and 8 February, United States aircraft committed several violations of Iraqi airspace in the Umm Qasr and Fao area.

6. At 2238 hours on 8 February 1998 a formation comprised of a number of United States aircraft launched three flares in the north of the Chalabiyah area.

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Security Council

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16 February 1998
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ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 15 FEBRUARY FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 15 February 1998 addressed to you by Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, explaining Iraq's position concerning the discussions now being held in the Security Council with regard to the next phase of the "oil for food" plan.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-03388 (E) 160298 160298 170298

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Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 15 February 1998 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should first like to thank you warmly for your efforts to ensure that the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people are met. With regard to the discussions currently being held in the Security Council on a draft resolution concerning the next phase of the "oil for food" plan, I should like to assure you that, when Iraq undertook to implement this plan, it fully relied on the legal bases of the plan, namely, Security Council resolution 986 (1995) and the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between Iraq and the Secretariat of the United Nations (S/1996/356), which are two complementary texts.

Throughout the preceding phase, Iraq dealt with the United Nations Secretariat on the basis of the two texts cited, observing all the legal provisions contained therein. Therefore, it does not believe it is required to comply with any provisions which do not fall within this legal framework or which run counter to those texts.

Accordingly, Iraq cannot accept a formula which is intended to make the Distribution Plan permanent and continuous, for that would contravene the spirit of resolution 986 (1995) and the provisions of paragraph 4 of the Memorandum of Understanding, according to which the arrangement provided for in the Memorandum is an exceptional and temporary measure.

Moreover, paragraph 6 of the Memorandum of Understanding provides that the Government of Iraq is to prepare a Distribution Plan which includes a categorized list of humanitarian supplies and goods, taking into consideration the prevailing needs of the Iraqi population. It follows that the decision concerning the distribution of additional supplies resulting from the increase in quantities of petroleum sold is the responsibility of the Iraqi Government and not that of a third party. That is the procedure that was followed in the preceding phases of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding.

In addition to blatantly contradicting the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding and of Security Council resolution 986 (1995), the proposal that the distribution of additional supplies should be entrusted to a party other than the Iraqi Government is devoid of all objectivity, and its sole purpose is to serve political interests which have nothing to do with the humanitarian objectives underlying the "oil for food" plan. To cite just one example, I should like to draw attention to the last part of paragraphs 11 and 12 of the amended draft resolution which the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland submitted to the Security Council on 13 February 1998.

With regard to the anticipated petroleum exports to generate the supplementary resources needed to finance the "oil for food" plan, Iraq's operational capacity is such that it can export a maximum of $4 billion worth of

petroleum; any higher target is unrealistic and unfeasible. On this point, I should like to note that the insistence on putting forward figures which exceed Iraq's real capacities does nothing but complicate the situation and increase the problems involved, the main result being to hinder the implementation of the plan's humanitarian objective.

Iraq reaffirms that the pumping of petroleum is to begin on the day when the Secretary-General informs the Security Council that he has approved the Distribution Plan, as was the case in the two preceding phases.

Moreover, the Iraqi Government believes that the additional revenues should not be affected by the withdrawals provided for in paragraph 8 of resolution 986 (1995), for the revenues in question are intended to meet humanitarian needs and not to increase the amounts deposited as compensation or to defray administrative or any other costs.

It is clear that Iraq is fully cooperating in the implementation of the provisions of the "oil for food" plan, as can been seen in the various reports prepared by the United Nations Secretariat on this matter. We therefore state that the use of tendentious political language in referring to Iraq, which reveals the political objectives of certain parties, will not be accepted by the Iraqi Government.

In the hope that the Security Council will adopt a resolution that takes into account the concerns and point of view of the Iraqi Government, which has a practical knowledge of the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people, we welcome the proposal, put forward in your letter of 10 February 1998 to the Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs, that Iraq and United Nations Secretariat should hold technical discussions. For practical and technical reasons, we should like these discussions to be held in Baghdad.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs

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S/1998/126
16 February 1998
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ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 15 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 8 February 1998 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, calling your attention to the fact that Turkish acts of military aggression against Iraqi territory have been continuing and enclosing a list of the Turkish military violations of Iraqi territory that were committed between 23 October and 25 December 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 8 February 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 29 December 1997 (S/1997/1017, annex), I should like to call your attention to the fact that Turkish encroachments on Iraq's territory and airspace are continuing. (I transmit to you herewith a list showing the violations and encroachments committed by Turkish military forces between 23 October and 25 December 1997.)

The Government of Iraq condemns these ongoing encroachments in the strongest terms and rejects outright the arguments that Turkey has persistently used to justify its aggression. Turkey's actions against Iraq constitute blatant aggression against the country's security, sovereignty and independence, they are in flagrant violation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, and they undermine the principles governing relations of good-neighbourliness and the 1926 Iraq-Turkey boundary agreement.

While Turkey seeks excuses in particular conditions in northern Iraq in order to justify its strikes against Iraqi civilians and its violations of Iraq's territory, it is the Government of Turkey's policy of cooperating with the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom in maintaining the unlawful no-flight zone that is creating an anomalous situation in that area.

As it calls upon the Turkish Government to withdraw its invading forces forthwith from Iraqi territory and to desist from any repetition of these constant belligerent actions, Iraq holds Turkey fully responsible, in accordance with the principle of State responsibility, for the acts of aggression it commits inside Iraqi territory and for all their consequences, regardless of the alleged reasons it gives. The Government of Iraq also reserves its legitimate right under international law to determine an appropriate response to this brutal military aggression and to seek compensation for the damage it causes and the human suffering it inflicts on Iraqi citizens.

At the same time, the Government of the Republic of Iraq renews its call to the Government of Turkey to reconsider its dangerous policy, which clearly contributes to perpetuating the anomalous situation in northern Iraq in cooperation with the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom for the purpose of implementing a dangerous scheme for interference in the internal affairs of Iraq.

As, through you, I reiterate my country's call to Turkey to respect Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, I express the hope that the United Nations will meet its responsibilities as laid down in the Charter and that it will halt the intimidation and aggression to which my country is constantly being subjected.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its enclosure circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

Enclosure

Turkish attacks on Iraqi territory, 23 October-25 December 1997

1. Between 0644 and 1750 hours on 23 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 15 sorties. The violations were centred on the Aqrah, Rawanduz and Dokan areas.

2. Between 0645 and 1518 hours on 24 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 20 sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo, Aqrah, Amadiyah and Rawanduz areas.

3. Between 1050 and 1523 hours 26 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 14 sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo, Aqrah, Rawanduz and Koysanjaq areas.

4. Between 1050 and 1345 hours on 29 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with eight sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo, Aqrah, Amadiyah, Koysanjaq, Dokan, Rawanduz and Irbil areas.

5. Between 1320 and 1500 hours on 30 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with eight sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo, Aqrah, Amadiyah and Rawanduz areas.

6. Between 1015 and 1240 hours on 31 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with eight sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo, Aqrah and Rawanduz areas.

7. Between 0645 and 0825 hours on 4 November 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violation was centred on the Tall Kayf and Amadiyah areas.

8. Between 1055 and 1522 hours on 6 November 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with three sorties. The violations were centred on the Zakho, Aqrah and Amadiyah areas.

9. Between 0700 and 1530 hours on 8 November 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 18 sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo, Koysanjaq, Aqrah and Amadiyah areas.

10. On 8 November 1997 Turkish armed forces supported by tanks and military vehicles carried out a fresh incursion into the territory of the Republic of Iraq. The forces in question penetrated into Iraqi territory in the north. The incursion caused large-scale loss of life and damage to the property of citizens.

11. Between 0627 and 1407 hours on 16 November 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 312 sorties. The violations were centred on the Rawanduz and Aqrah areas.

12. Between 0649 and 1520 hours on 17 November 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 12 sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah, Rawanduz and Shaqlawah areas.

13. Between 1258 and 1346 hours on 19 November 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Dokan, Rawanduz and Baibo areas.

14. Between 0945 and 1027 hours on 20 November 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with four sorties. The violations were centred on the Rawanduz and Baibo areas.

15. Between 1025 and 1118 hours on 3 December 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with three sorties. The violations were centred on the Zakho and Amadiyah areas.

16. Between 0805 and 1055 hours on 4 December 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Rawanduz, Aqrah and Amadiyah areas.

17. Between 1440 and 1450 hours on 7 December 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo area.

18. Between 1600 and 1605 hours on 22 December 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo area.

19. Between 1130 and 1300 hours on 24 December 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with four sorties. The violations were centred on the Dohuk, Baibo and Amadiyah areas.

20. Between 1150 and 1240 hours on 25 December 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo, Aqrah and Rawanduz areas.

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S/1998/127
17 February 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 13 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you and, through you, the other members of the Security Council, with profound grief, that the National Islamic Front regime of the Sudan is still pursuing its acts of aggression against my country, the State of Eritrea.

On Saturday, 24 January 1998, at 1415 hours, three Eritrean nationals, identified as Mohammed Osman Adem, Dawed Abdella Ibrahim and Mohammed Ali Osman Imra, were killed by heavy artillery, deliberately fired as an act of aggression by the Sudanese Army across the border into Eritrean territory at Arbaete Asher.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tesfa Alem SEYOUM
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-03462 (E) 170298 180298

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S/1998/128
17 February 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I should like to call the attention of the Security Council to the fact that, in testimony to the British House of Commons on 10 February 1998, His Excellency Mr. Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, stressed that Libya possesses no chemical or biological weapons. The Foreign Secretary was answering a question from a Mr. Flight, a Member of the House of Commons. The exchange was as follows:

> Mr. Flight: What information, if any, does the Foreign Secretary have on the production of biological and chemical weapons in other parts of the Near East? I am thinking in particular of Syria and Libya, which are a factor in the stability of the area and the peace treaty.
>
> Mr. Cook: I am not aware of such production in Syria. Libya, as the Hon. Gentleman knows, is also subject to very tight sanctions, one of the aims of which is to ensure that there is no possibility of that country developing any chemical or biological weapons.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abuzed Omar DORDA
Permanent Representative

98-03571 (E) 170298 170298

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S/1998/129
18 February 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

NOTE VERBALE DATED 10 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SPAIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to Security Council resolution 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997 concerning the situation in Sierra Leone, has the honour to report that the Government of Spain has taken the necessary steps, in terms of its national legislation and in the framework of the European Union, to implement the provisions contained in paragraphs 5 and 6 of that resolution.

Furthermore, with reference to the note dated 8 January 1998 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone, the Permanent Mission of Spain notes that the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has given instructions to all consulates of Spain and embassies with a consular section not to grant visas to the members of the military junta of Sierra Leone whose names appear in annex 1 of the aforesaid note from the Chairman.

98-03589 (E) 180298 180298

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18 February 1998
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NOTE VERBALE DATED 11 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF COLOMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to his note verbale dated 16 October 1997, has the honour to inform him that the Government of Colombia has taken the necessary steps to implement the provisions of Security Council resolution 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997.

98-03633 (E) 180298 180298

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S/1998/131
18 February 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE VERBALE DATED 11 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to Security Council resolution 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997 and the Secretary-General's note verbale dated 16 October 1997, has the honour to inform him that the Government of Malaysia has taken the necessary measures for implementation of the relevant provisions of the aforesaid resolution.

98-03639 (E) 180298

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S/1998/132
18 February 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the position of Egypt concerning the list of items of which the Security Council is seized (S/1998/44).

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Nabil ELARABY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-03645 (E) 180298

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Annex

Letter dated 18 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write to you with reference to document S/1998/44 concerning the deletion of certain items from the list of matters of which the Security Council is currently seized.

In this regard, Egypt requests that the following items be retained on the above-mentioned list: items 1, 12, 17 and 20.

(Signed) Dr. Nabil ELARABY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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General Assembly
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18 February 1998

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 17 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my communications, the latest of which was dated 30 December 1997 (A/52/756-S/1997/1020), I have the honour to draw your attention to new provocative Turkish acts relating to the continuous and systematic plundering of the religious and cultural heritage in the occupied area of Cyprus.

Recently the following grave violations came to our attention:

- The Church of Apostle Andreas in the village of Panagra has been converted into a mosque;

- The Church of the Virgin Mary in the village of Aheritou, as reported in the Turkish Cypriot newspaper Ortam of 5 August 1997, has been vandalized and looted and is now being used as a sheep pen;

- The Church of the Virgin Mary in the village of Palekythro has been converted into a cultural centre.

Moreover, the following churches and cemeteries, after having been desecrated and looted, have been abandoned to deteriorate and, as a result, are now in danger of collapsing:

- The Church and cemetery of St. Tryphonas in the village of Vasili;

- The Church of St. Evlogios in the village of St. Theodoros;

- The Church of Saints Sergios and Vakhos in the village of St. George;

- The Church of the Archangel Michael in the village of Hartzia.

[Photographic evidence of all the above may be viewed at the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations.]

It is sometimes claimed by the occupying Power, in order to justify its unlawful policies, that historic buildings can be given new functions related to the needs of contemporary life. One wonders whether turning a church into a sheep pen is "a new function given to historic buildings".

An additional pertinent point that Turkey forgets is that it does not have the consent and permission of the rightful owners to alter the function of these historic buildings, which is permissible only under certain internationally accepted and legal circumstances.

It is obvious that what is happening to the religious and cultural properties in the occupied area of Cyprus is a direct violation of international law and, more specifically, the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, and the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

What we are witnessing is an officially sponsored, systematic and well-executed plan by Turkey to destroy by any ways and means the basic tenets of the civilization of Cyprus in an effort to distort history, alter the demographic character of the island and pursue a policy of division of the island.

Despite repeated requests for the protection and maintenance of the religious and cultural heritage in the occupied areas - a heritage that has evolved over thousands of years and survived even the Ottoman Empire - Turkey continues to display total contempt and disregard for the many requests of international organizations.

It is time to stop holding Cyprus and its people hostage to the past, and to start looking towards a common future of prosperity, democracy and enjoyment of human rights, including cultural rights, for all Cypriots without discrimination.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish once again to strongly protest against these wilful and deliberate acts of destruction and to request you to call upon Turkey to terminate its systematic policy of pillaging and obliterating the island's archaeological, historical and religious monuments.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1998/134
18 February 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I have the honour to refer to Security Council document S/1998/44, containing a summary statement by the Secretary-General on matters of which the Security Council is seized and on the stage reached in their consideration.

I should like to reiterate the Committee's objection to the decision to delete from the list items related to the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East, which are of utmost concern not only to the Committee but also to the majority of Member States. The Committee believes that, pending a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East, the core of which is the question of Palestine, in accordance with international legitimacy, these items should remain on the list of matters of which the Council is seized, as they continue to engage its responsibility with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security.

I should also like to stress our view that any decision to delete these items, in the absence of positive developments in the peace process, would go well beyond procedural reform and would have far-reaching negative political implications. On behalf of the Committee, I would like once again to express the firm hope that decisions of such fundamental importance will be taken in thorough consultation with all the parties concerned.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ibra Deguène KA
Chairman
Committee on the Exercise of the
Inalienable Rights of the
Palestinian People

98-03668 (E) 180298

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/135
18 February 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZIMBABWE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), I have the honour to forward, on behalf of His Excellency Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity, the text of a statement issued by the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution at its forty-fourth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa on 13 February 1998, concerning the situation in Sierra Leone.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Machivenyika Tobias MAPURANGA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe
to the United Nations
Representative of the current Chairman
of the OAU

98-03674 (E) 180298

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement of the Central Organ on Sierra Leone
issued at Addis Ababa on 13 February 1998

1. The Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, meeting at its forty-fourth ordinary session at the ambassadorial level in Addis Ababa, on Friday, 13 February 1998, was briefed on the current situation in Sierra Leone. The Central Organ expressed grave concern at the intransigence of the illegal military junta in Sierra Leone with regard to the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) peace plan, signed at Conakry, on 23 October 1997.

2. The consequent delay in the implementation of the ECOWAS peace plan has led to the exacerbation of the grave humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone, which was brought about by the coup of 25 May 1997 that led to total anarchy and the destruction of administrative, social and economic institutions in Sierra Leone.

3. The Central Organ reaffirmed the support of OAU for ECOWAS and the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in their efforts to bring an end to the crisis in Sierra Leone through the restoration of constitutional order and the reinstatement of the legitimate Government of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah at the earliest possible date.

4. The Central Organ expressed concern over the loss of human lives and the destruction of administrative, social and economic infrastructure in Sierra Leone. It appealed to the international community to provide urgent assistance for the reconstruction of Sierra Leone. It also expressed concern over the flagrant violations of the sanctions regime imposed on the junta, especially the violation of the United Nations arms embargo and travel restrictions on members of the illegal regime and their families.

5. The Central Organ called upon all States members of OAU and the international community at large to strictly comply with Security Council resolution 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997, imposing an arms and fuel embargo and a sanctions regime on the junta and their immediate families.

6. The Central Organ deplored the fact that the continuing intransigence of the junta has made it difficult for humanitarian agencies to bring in much needed humanitarian assistance to the suffering people of Sierra Leone. This critical situation is being exacerbated by the massive displacement of people and the huge influx of refugees into neighbouring countries.

7. The Central Organ recalled that the provision of humanitarian assistance is one of the objectives of the ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone and launched an appeal to the international community to provide, as a matter of urgency, necessary humanitarian assistance to the people of Sierra Leone. It also urged the return of all relevant United Nations agencies to Sierra Leone in order to extend all possible cooperation to ECOWAS in the delivery of much-needed and necessary humanitarian assistance to the people of Sierra Leone.

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20 February 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions and in particular its resolutions 986 (1995) of 14 April 1995, 1111 (1997) of 4 June 1997, 1129 (1997) of 12 September 1997 and 1143 (1997) of 4 December 1997,

Convinced of the need as a temporary measure to continue to provide for the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people until the fulfilment by Iraq of the relevant resolutions, including notably resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991, allows the Council to take further action with regard to the prohibitions referred to in resolution 661 (1990) of 6 August 1990, in accordance with the provisions of those resolutions, and emphasizing the temporary nature of the distribution plan envisaged by this resolution,

Convinced also of the need for equitable distribution of humanitarian supplies to all segments of the Iraqi population throughout the country,

Welcoming the report submitted on 1 February 1998 by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 1143 (1997) (S/1998/90) and his recommendations, as well as the report submitted on 30 January 1998 in accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 1143 (1997) by the Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) of 6 August 1990 (S/1998/92),

Noting that the Government of Iraq did not cooperate fully in the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General,

Noting with concern that, despite the ongoing implementation of resolutions 986 (1995), 1111 (1997) and 1143 (1997), the population of Iraq continues to face a very serious nutritional and health situation,

Determined to avoid any further deterioration of the current humanitarian situation,

Reaffirming the commitment of all Member States to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Decides that the provisions of resolution 986 (1995), except those contained in paragraphs 4, 11 and 12, shall remain in force for a new period of 180 days beginning at 00.01 hours, Eastern Standard Time, on the day after the President of the Council has informed the members of the Council that he has received the report of the Secretary-General requested in paragraph 5 below, on which date the provisions of resolution 1143 (1997), if still in force, shall terminate, except as regards sums already produced pursuant to that resolution prior to that date;

2. Decides further that the authorization given to States by paragraph 1 of resolution 986 (1995) shall permit the import of petroleum and petroleum products originating in Iraq, including financial and other essential transactions directly relating thereto, sufficient to produce a sum, in the 180-day period referred to in paragraph 1 above, not exceeding a total of 5.256 billion United States dollars, of which the amounts recommended by the Secretary-General for the food/nutrition and health sectors should be allocated on a priority basis, and of which between 682 million United States dollars and 788 million United States dollars shall be used for the purpose referred to in paragraph 8 (b) of resolution 986 (1995), except that if less than 5.256 billion United States dollars worth of petroleum or petroleum products is sold during the 180-day period, particular attention will be paid to meeting the urgent humanitarian needs in the food/nutrition and health sectors and the Secretary-General may provide a proportionately smaller amount for the purpose referred to in paragraph 8 (b) of resolution 986 (1995);

3. Directs the Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) to authorize, on the basis of specific requests, reasonable expenses related to the Hajj pilgrimage, to be met by funds in the escrow account;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to take the actions necessary to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of this resolution, and in particular to enhance the United Nations observation process in Iraq in such a way as to provide the required assurance to the Council of the equitable distribution of the goods produced in accordance with this resolution and that all supplies authorized for procurement, including dual-usage items and spare parts, are utilized for the purpose for which they have been authorized;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council when he has entered into any necessary arrangements or agreements, and approved a distribution plan, submitted by the Government of Iraq, which includes a description of the goods to be purchased and effectively guarantees their equitable distribution, in accordance with his recommendations that the plan should be ongoing and should reflect the relative priorities of humanitarian supplies as well as their interrelationships within the context of projects or activities, required delivery dates, preferred points of entry, and targeted objectives to be achieved;

6. Urges all States, and in particular the Government of Iraq, to provide their full cooperation in the effective implementation of this resolution;

7. Appeals to all States to cooperate in the timely submission of applications and the expeditious issue of export licences, facilitating the transit of humanitarian supplies authorized by the Committee established by resolution 661 (1990), and taking all other appropriate measures within their competence in order to ensure that urgently required humanitarian supplies reach the Iraqi people as rapidly as possible;

8. Stresses the need to ensure respect for the security and safety of all persons directly involved in the implementation of this resolution in Iraq;

9. Decides to conduct an interim review of the implementation of this resolution 90 days after the entry into force of paragraph 1 above and a thorough review of all aspects of its implementation prior to the end of the 180-day period, on receipt of the reports referred to in paragraphs 10 and 14 below, and expresses its intention, prior to the end of the 180-day period, to consider favourably the renewal of the provisions of this resolution as appropriate, provided that the reports referred to in paragraphs 10 and 14 below indicate that those provisions are being satisfactorily implemented;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to make an interim report to the Council 90 days after the entry into force of paragraph 1 above, and to make a full report prior to the end of the 180-day period, on the basis of observation by United Nations personnel in Iraq, and on the basis of consultations with the Government of Iraq, on whether Iraq has ensured the equitable distribution of medicine, health supplies, foodstuffs and materials and supplies for essential civilian needs, financed in accordance with paragraph 8 (a) of resolution 986 (1995), including in his reports any observations he may have on the adequacy of the revenues to meet Iraq's humanitarian needs, and on Iraq's capacity to export sufficient quantities of petroleum and petroleum products to produce the sum referred to in paragraph 2 above;

11. Takes note of the Secretary-General's observation that the situation in the electricity sector is extremely grave, and of his intention to return to the Council with proposals for appropriate funding, requests him to submit urgently a report for this purpose prepared in consultation with the Government of Iraq to the Council, and further requests him to submit to the Council other studies, drawing upon United Nations agencies as appropriate and in consultation with the Government of Iraq, on essential humanitarian needs in Iraq including necessary improvements to infrastructure;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to establish a group of experts to determine in consultation with the Government of Iraq whether Iraq is able to export petroleum or petroleum products sufficient to produce the total sum referred to in paragraph 2 above and to prepare an independent report on Iraqi production and transportation capacity and necessary monitoring, also requests him in the light of that report to make early and appropriate recommendations and expresses its readiness to take a decision, on the basis of these recommendations and the humanitarian objectives of this resolution, notwithstanding paragraph 3 of resolution 661 (1990), regarding authorization of the export of the necessary equipment to enable Iraq to increase the export of petroleum or petroleum products and to give the appropriate directions to the Committee established by resolution 661 (1990);

13. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council, if Iraq is unable to export petroleum or petroleum products sufficient to produce the total sum referred to in paragraph 2 above, and following consultations with relevant United Nations agencies and the Iraqi authorities, making recommendations for the expenditure of the sum expected to be available, consistent with the distribution plan referred to in paragraph 5 above;

14. Requests the Committee established by resolution 661 (1990), in coordination with the Secretary-General, to report to the Council 90 days after the entry into force of paragraph 1 above and again prior to the end of the 180-day period on the implementation of the arrangements in paragraphs 1, 2, 6, 8, 9 and 10 of resolution 986 (1995);

15. Requests further the Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) to implement the measures and take action on the steps referred to in its report of 30 January 1998, with regard to the refining and clarifying of its working procedures, to consider the relevant observations and recommendations referred to in the report of the Secretary-General of 1 February 1998 in particular with a view to reducing to the extent possible the delay between the export of petroleum and petroleum products from Iraq and the supply of goods to Iraq in accordance with this resolution, to report to the Council by 31 March 1998 and thereafter to continue to review its procedures whenever necessary;

16. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

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ORIGINAL: SPANISH

LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1132 (1997), paragraphs 5 and 6 of which prohibit the sale or supply to Sierra Leone of petroleum and petroleum products and arms and related matériel and restrict the travel of the members of the Sierra Leone junta and adult members of their families.

In that regard, I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Mexico has taken the necessary steps to implement the provisions contained in paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1132 (1997).

(Signed) Manuel TELLO
Permanent Representative

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General Assembly
Security Council

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19 February 1998
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ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 37
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 19 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the civilian inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place in January 1998.

2 January 1998

At 0515 hours Israeli forces fired several shells at areas along the Litani River.

At 0800 hours, as Officer Zayd Sariwi, acting commander of the Hasbayya detachment, was travelling in a Security Forces vehicle belonging to the detachment he was required by Lahad militia elements to go to their security post. They took him to Khiyam prison, and the vehicle was returned to detachment headquarters.

At 1050 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South and Western Bekaa areas at high altitude.

At 1550 hours Israeli forces fired a number of artillery shells towards Iqlim al-Tuffah.

3 January 1998

At 0920 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the area to the east of Sidon at high altitude.

At 1900 hours Israeli forces fired several artillery shells at the Sujud hill, Jabbur pool and Jabal al-Rafi' vicinity.

5 January 1998

At 0700 hours outlying areas of Mansuri, Majdal Zun and Hinniyah came under Israeli artillery fire. A person was injured in Majdal Zun.

At 2200 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Maydun and Ayn al-Tinah and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

6 January 1998

Between 0400 and 0600 hours an Israeli gunboat at sea off the Mansuri coast fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire in various directions.

7 January 1998

At 1400 hours Israeli forces fired several artillery shells at Jabal Sujud and areas along the Nab' al-Tasah.

8 January 1998

At 0730 hours the outskirts of Mansuri, Majdal Zun and Hinniyah and the Nabi Imran neighbourhood of Qulaylah came under Israeli artillery fire. Jalilah Muhammad Qubaysi was wounded.

At 1400 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar, Haris, Haddatha, Tibnin, Shaqra and Bra'shit came under Israeli artillery fire. At the same time, Israeli warplanes and combat helicopters overflew the area.

At 2330 hours outlying areas of Yatar, Kafra, Haris, Haddatha, Ayta al-Jabal, Bra'shit and Shaqra came under Israeli artillery fire.

9 January 1998

At 0645 hours Israeli forces fired several shells and bursts of medium-weapons fire at the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah.

At 1430 hours two Israeli helicopters overflew outlying areas of Majdal Zun dropping heat balloons.

10 January 1998

At 1505 hours Israeli forces fired several shells at outlying areas of Majdal Zun and at Jabal Safi.

Between 1105 and 1130 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah, Iqlim al-Tuffah and Sidon areas at high altitudes.

11 January 1998

At 0300 hours an Israeli gunboat out at sea fired a number of bursts. It also fired three flares over the sea.

13 January 1998

At 1315 hours Israeli aircraft overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitudes.

14 January 1998

At 1105 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitudes.

At 1510 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Jiyah, Sa'diyat and Damur bridge areas in Shuf district and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1940 hours Israeli warplanes overflew villages in the area east of Sidon and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

15 January 1998

In the morning, Israeli forces closed the Jazzin - Yatar and Kafr Falus - Ayn al-Mir crossings in both directions to vehicles and pedestrians. They reopened them at 1100 hours.

At 1300 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitudes.

At 1315 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at high altitudes.

At 1350 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at medium altitudes.

16 January 1998

At 0530 hours Israeli forces detained Mahmud Yasin and Husayn Qa'ur at sea off the Mansuri coast and took them inside the occupied areas. They released them at 0800 hours on 19 January, and they made their way to port at Tyre.

At 0625 hours outlying areas of Jba', Ayn Bu Siwar and Jarju' came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1010 hours Israeli warplanes attacked outlying areas of Ayn Qana, Humin al-Fawqa, Jba', Arabsalim and Jarju'. The home of Muhammad Bahij Duwayk in Jarju' was damaged. The bombardment stopped at 1300 hours.

At 1015 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at low altitudes.

At 1030 hours clashes in which weapons of all types were used broke out in outlying areas of Sujud, Jazzin district, between Israeli and Lahad forces on the one hand and elements of the National Resistance on the other. A number of Israelis and members of the Lahad militia were wounded and were taken to hospitals in the occupied areas.

At 1220 Israeli warplanes overflew the Sa'diyat, Jiyah and Damur bridge areas and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1830 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar, Haddatha, Haris, Ayta al-Jabal, Bra'shit, Shaqra, Qabrikha, Sawwanah and Majdal Silm as well as Wadi al-Qaysiyah came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by overflights by Israeli warplanes.

17 January 1998

At 0630 hours outlying areas of Qulaylah, Izziyah, Hinniyah, Mansuri and Majdal Zun in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1110 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Na'imah hills at low altitudes dropping heat balloons.

At 1800 hours the Iqlim al-Tuffah area came under Israeli artillery fire.

19 January 1998

At 1100 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Luwayzah, Jarju' and Ayn Bu Siwar and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

21 January 1998

At 0915 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps.

At 0930 hours outlying areas of Zibqin and Jibal al-Butm came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1000 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitudes.

23 January 1998

At 0630 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Bra'shit, Haris, Kafra and Yatar came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1200 hours outlying areas of Mashgharah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1200 hours clashes in which weapons of all types were used broke out in Tumat Niha, Jazzin district, between Israeli and Lahad forces on the one hand and elements of the National Resistance on the other. They continued until 1300 hours.

At 1230 hours outlying areas of Jba', Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Arabsalim and Luwayzah, the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and areas along the Zahrani River came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1300 hours clashes broke out between elements of the National Resistance on the one hand and Lahad militia elements and Israeli forces on the other in which all types of weapons were used. They continued until 1500 hours.

At 1430 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the Ayn Bu Siwar - Jba' road. This was accompanied by an Israeli artillery bombardment of villages and towns in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area and residential neighbourhoods in Jarju'. Muhammad Ali Jawwad was injured and a dwelling was damaged.

25 January 1998

At 1300 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Bra'shit, Ayta al-Jabal, Shaqra and Majdal Silm came under Israeli artillery fire.

26 January 1998

At 1320 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area at low altitudes.

At 1540 hours outlying areas of Zibqin and Jibal al-Butm in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery fire.

27 January 1998

At 0830 hours outlying areas of Maydun and the surrounding hills, the vicinity of the Jabbur pool and the area of Mashgharah near the vocational school came under Israeli artillery fire. Serious damage was caused to a dwelling, and Huyam Husayn Yasin was injured.

At 1430 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at high altitudes.

At 1450 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at high altitudes, and at 1800 hours did so again at medium altitudes.

At 1815 hours Israeli warplanes carried out intensive low-level overflights of the Nabatiyah area.

At 1830 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Mashgharah, Ayn al-Tinah, Maydun, Dallafah and Qilya and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire.

28 January 1998

At 1530 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar, Haddatha and Haris came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1630 hours the security situation in the Jabal al-Rayhan area became strained and there were clashes between Israeli and Lahad militia forces on the

one hand and men of the Lebanese National Resistance on the other in which weapons of all types were used. Calm was restored at 1730 hours.

At 1730 hours outlying areas of Jba' came under Israeli artillery fire.

29 January 1998

At 2230 hours outlying areas of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the vicinity of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks there came under artillery fire from Israeli positions on the hills opposite Nabatiyah. The shelling stopped at 0100 hours on 30 January.

30 January 1998

At 1100 hours Israeli forces fired several shells at areas along the Nab' al-Tasah.

31 January 1998

At 0030 hours Israeli forces fired shells directly at the Jabbur pool and towards the Iqlim al-Tuffah area.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation and the fresh attacks and arbitrary practices against the civilian Lebanese population that have left a number of wounded and caused further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir HOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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S/1998/139
19 February 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you of my Government's initial response to developments regarding the interception by Angolan authorities of a private South African company-owned aircraft that violated Security Council sanctions imposed against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

On 20 January 1998, a DC-4 aircraft, which originated at Lanseria, South Africa, departed, according to the flight plan, for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. However, after refuelling at Maun, in Botswana, the aircraft proceeded to Angola. It landed at Jamba and was en route to Andulo when it was forced down by Angolan authorities at Menongue in Cuando Cubango Province. After having landed, the eight crew members were arrested. It is clear that a false flight plan had been filed before the departure of the aircraft from Lanseria.

On 22 January 1998, my Government condemned this serious breach of the mandatory decision of the Security Council relating to Angola and undertook to take vigorous steps to ensure that the sanctions against UNITA were strictly observed.

Following the adoption of the Security Council resolution on Angola, my Government informed all the relevant national and provincial government departments, including the Airline Pilots Association, of the measures contained therein.

Previously, South Africa, together with other Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, had issued a warning through the SADC Interstate Defence and Security Committee that it would take drastic action against individuals and companies still providing war materials and logistics to UNITA. My Government is firmly committed to enforcing such action.

My Government has also increased its surveillance at those airports from which flights to Angola may depart and is in the process of closing certain

airports in order to ensure the control and security of all flights originating from South Africa.

The events surrounding the illegal entry into Angolan airspace of the DC-4 aircraft and its eight-member crew are currently being thoroughly investigated by the relevant authorities and further information will be transmitted to the Security Council in due course.

I should be grateful if this initial response could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khiphusizi J. JELE
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

UNITED NATIONS **A S**

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S/1998/140
19 February 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 17 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 13 February 1998 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plûmer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex, to which is appended a letter from His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, dated 25 January 1998, would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 13 February 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the letter dated 25 January 1998 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in connection with the opening of the Paphos military airbase in South Cyprus for the use of the Greek air force within the context of the "joint military doctrine" between the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its appendix could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

APPENDIX

Letter dated 25 January 1998 from Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş addressed to the Secretary-General

I have previously expressed my concern over the continued Greek-Greek Cypriot efforts towards increasing the South's military prowess and arsenal. The latest escalation, which will have serious repercussions for the stability of the island and the region, is the opening of the Paphos airbase for the use of the Greek air force, within the context of the "joint military doctrine".

You have no doubt been informed that the construction of the Paphos airbase has been completed and that the Greek Cypriot administration took delivery of it on 24 January 1998. The official inauguration will take place after the elections in the South.

Since the introduction of the "joint military doctrine" in 1993, the Greek Cypriot administration, together with Greece, has accelerated the build-up of arms and armed forces in southern Cyprus, bringing its current military expenditure in excess of $2 million a day, which, in per capita terms, is among the highest in the world. The construction of air and naval bases in southern Cyprus for Greek fighter planes and warships is part of this ongoing belligerent stance and is utterly in violation of the 1960 Agreements.

Mr. Clerides himself has confessed that the ultimate aim of the Greek Cypriot side is to "resurrect Hellenism in the North". Most recently he has publicly announced that the ultimate fight will be made for recapturing Girne. So long as the Greek Cypriot side does not abandon the mentality which finds expression in slogans like "Greece is here" and in military exercises designed to "recapture lost territory", it will have a hard time convincing us, the counterpart, that their preparations are anything but offensive.

The Paphos airbase and the sophisticated weapons, like S-300 missiles, are vehicles disturbing the balance between the guarantor motherlands, Turkey and Greece, a fact that had already been admitted back in 1995, when the first Greek fighter planes participated in the joint military exercises. The Greek Defence Minister at the time, Mr. Arsenis, publicly stated, "the defence pact changes the military balance in the area in favour of Greece".

The attitude displayed by the Greek Cypriot side demonstrates also that the Greek Cypriot administration is choosing to ignore the relevant paragraphs of the latest Security Council resolutions on this issue. As you will no doubt recall, the latest resolutions (1092 (1996) of 23 December 1996, 1117 (1997) of 27 June 1997 and 1146 (1997) of 23 December 1997) reiterated concern over the continuing excessive levels of military forces and armaments in the Republic of Cyprus and the rate at which they are being expanded, upgraded and modernized, including by the introduction of sophisticated weaponry.

I would therefore kindly request you to draw Greek Cypriot attention to the dangers inherent in such an irrational policy.

(Signed) Rauf R. DENKTAŞ
President

UNITED
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Security Council

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S/1998/141
19 February 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the note verbale dated 12 February 1998 presented by the Government of Turkey to the Government of Greece for the settlement of the entire set of the Aegean problems.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-03837 (E) 190298

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Annex

Note verbale dated 12 February 1998 presented by the Government of Turkey to the Government of Greece at the Embassy of Greece at Ankara

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey presents its compliments to the Embassy of Greece and has the honour to request the Embassy to communicate the following views and proposals of the Government of Turkey to the Government of Greece.

As two neighbouring and allied countries, Turkey and Greece should enjoy friendly relations and an atmosphere of understanding and mutual accommodation should prevail between them. This would be in the interest of not only the two nations, but of the region as a whole.

Today, owing to the existence of a set of unresolved questions over the Aegean, the two countries are facing tensions in their relations. It should be a cause of concern for both that this situation is liable to give rise to unintended and undesirable incidents which could escalate into a serious confrontation.

In order to avert such a risk and to chart a positive course in their relationship, the two countries should promptly and jointly initiate a substantive process of conciliation while carefully refraining from any unilateral acts and respecting each other's vital interests in the Aegean.

In the context of such a process, the two countries should, in the first instance, make a sincere and good-willed effort to clearly identify all the questions between them with regard to the Aegean. This should be the first step that the two countries should jointly take in order to move towards the peaceful settlement of the entire set of the Aegean problems to be so identified.

Simultaneously, the two countries should take the following steps which would pave the way for resolving their bilateral issues:

The two Governments should formalize the Madrid Declaration of 8 July 1997 which sets out principles and commitments that should govern their relationship.

The two Governments should commit themselves to developing and mutually implementing in full a package or confidence-building measures in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The two Governments should agree to convene the Personalities Group without further delay and to help the Group to fulfil its agreed mandate.

In order to discuss the above-mentioned proposals, the Government of the Republic of Turkey has the honour to formally invite the Government of Greece to jointly convene a high-level meeting between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries not later than the end of March 1998, either in Ankara or in Athens.

The Government of the Republic of Turkey hopes that serious and favourable consideration will be given to its proposals by the Government of Greece and looks forward to receiving its positive response.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

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19 February 1998

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LETTER DATED 19 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In its resolution 1133 (1997) of 20 October 1997, the Security Council requested me to report every 60 days from the date of extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) on the progress in the implementation of the settlement plan and the agreements reached between the parties for its implementation. Following my report of 13 November 1997 (S/1997/882), which included a timetable and my recommendations for the full deployment of MINURSO, I provided, in a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 12 December 1997 (S/1997/974), an account of the identification of potential voters in the referendum since its resumption on 3 December. My report to the Council dated 15 January 1998 (S/1998/35) provided a further detailed account of that process and of other activities in implementation of the settlement plan. Since then there have been several important developments.

As members of the Council are aware, my Special Representative, Mr. Charles F. Dunbar, arrived in the mission area on 9 February 1998. In Rabat, he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II and had meetings with the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr. Abdellatif Filali, and with the Minister of State for the Interior, Mr. Driss Basri. In the Tindouf area, he met with the Secretary-General of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y del Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO), Mr. Mohammed Abdelaziz, and other Frente POLISARIO leaders. Mr. Dunbar assumed his duties at MINURSO headquarters in Laayoune on 16 February. He travelled to Algiers on 17 February to meet with the Algerian authorities, and will proceed to Nouakchott shortly to meet with the Mauritanian authorities.

During the reporting period, my Acting Special Representative, Mr. Erik Jensen, maintained regular contacts with the parties to resolve difficulties which continued to arise, in particular in the identification process. The Chairman of the Identification Commission, Mr. Robin Kinloch, also held regular consultations with the Moroccan and Frente POLISARIO coordinators with MINURSO. Following visits by the Commission Chairman to Nouakchott and by a technical mission to Zouerate in Mauritania, plans were finalized to open an

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identification centre in Zouerate. The centre began its work on 9 February, a month later than originally planned, in part because of the holding of Mauritanian presidential elections in December 1997. The technical mission considered a proposal by Mauritania for a second centre at Atar, instead of Nouadhibou. A decision in this regard is expected to be taken following my Special Representative's consultations with the Mauritanian authorities.

Eight identification teams are currently operating in the mission area (three in Western Sahara, two in the Tindouf area, two in southern Morocco and one in Mauritania). During the 11 weeks since the resumption of the identification process, i.e. between 3 December 1997 and 18 February 1998, 42,484 persons were convoked by the Identification Commission. Of these, 30,425 came before the Commission for interview and identification, bringing to 90,537 the total number of persons identified since the start of identification in August 1994. In January alone, 14,000 persons were identified. This is the highest number achieved in a month so far, notwithstanding the impact of the fasting month of Ramadan and the Eid-el-Fitr holidays.

Interruptions in the identification process owing to the illness of sheikhs on either side caused the loss of three working days at one centre. One day of work was lost at all centres as a result of sandstorms. Disputes between the parties caused the loss of four working days at two centres. A change in procedures at the Laayoune airport for arriving and departing POLISARIO delegations led to the loss of one working day at seven centres, and this was followed by a reciprocal change at the Tindouf airport for Moroccan delegations. In addition, the Eid-el-Fitr holidays necessitated closure of all centres for two and a half days. However, extra hours of identification work, as well as weekend sessions, enabled the Commission to make up for some of these delays.

The above interruptions and other factors contributed to a perceptible increase in tension between the two parties. There was a marked increase in anti-POLISARIO and sometimes anti-MINURSO coverage in the Moroccan press. The other factors included Moroccan official protests and public demonstrations against the negative testimony of several sheikhs on the POLISARIO side, the designation by the Frente POLISARIO of its former "Minister of Defence" (now "Minister for the Occupied Territories") and its "Minister of Education" as observers, and protests against the behaviour of a specific POLISARIO observer; changes in the Moroccan arrangements for meals for the POLISARIO delegation at Laayoune; and refusal, for a time, by a Moroccan observer to allow the identification of non-convoked ex-prisoners of war.

The parties expressed some reservations regarding the decisions contained in my report of 15 January 1998 (S/1998/35) concerning the centres in Morocco, the identification of tribal groups H41, H61 and J51/52, as well as the identification of tribal group D13. Nevertheless, the Identification Commission incorporated these last two decisions in the identification programme for February. In this connection, the Commission expects to identify, during the latter part of February and in March, some 4,000 unconvoked individuals, who presented themselves at identification centres in Western Sahara on the days of convocation of members of tribal groups H41, H61 and J51/52 listed in the 1974 census and their immediate families. On the basis of the outcome of the identification of these 4,000 individuals, decisions will then be made on ways

of dealing with any additional applicants from the above tribal groups, including those in Morocco. In the meantime, I call on the parties to continue to cooperate with MINURSO in the identification of persons from non-contested tribes, including those to be convoked in the towns of Sidi Kacem and El Kelaa des Sraghna in northern Morocco.

Since my report to the Security Council of 15 January (S/1998/35), the number of civilian police officers assigned to MINURSO has remained at 79, including the Civil Police Commissioner, Chief Superintendent Peter Miller. Two additional positions have therefore to be filled in order to bring the civilian police component of MINURSO to its approved strength of 81 officers. As described in my report of 15 January, the civilian police continues to assist the Identification Commission in its daily tasks, and also to prepare for the transitional period.

Under the command of Major-General Bernd S. Lubenik, the military component of MINURSO continues to monitor the ceasefire between the Royal Moroccan Army and the Frente POLISARIO forces and to plan for full deployment. The military situation remains stable, and both sides continue to cooperate with military observers in their respective areas. Two engineering teams from Sweden and Pakistan visited MINURSO in late January and early February to assess the demining requirements and the time necessary to undertake demining activities for both the repatriation of refugees and the installation of additional military team sites at designated locations.

During the reporting period, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued its preparatory work for the repatriation of Saharan refugees. Discussions were held by UNHCR with the parties and my Special Representative on its repatriation programme and role under the settlement plan. UNHCR is completing preparations for its special appeal for funds for the implementation of that programme. It is further reviewing the budget for the operation, which is expected to exceed $50 million, of which 60 per cent might be necessary to cover transport and logistics costs. Before issuing its appeal for funds, UNHCR will brief potential donor countries on the repatriation programme and related financial requirements.

I intend to report further to the Security Council in good time before the expiration of the current mandate of MINURSO on 20 April 1998. In the event that circumstances so warrant, I shall bring to the Council's attention any significant developments in the identification process in the coming weeks. In the meantime, I reiterate my appeal to the Council to support continued preparations and provide the necessary resources for the full deployment of MINURSO. I also count on the parties to refrain from any statement or action that could undermine the significant progress made so far in the identification process and to cooperate fully with MINURSO in completing this process, so that the transitional period may start as planned.

Mr. Erik Jensen will have completed his assignment with MINURSO at the end of this month, after four years as Head of Mission. I wish to take this opportunity to place on record my appreciation for his unfailing dedication and invaluable contribution to the peace process under difficult circumstances.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 19 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued between 12 and 17 February 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

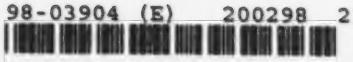
Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-03904 (E) 200298 230298



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Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 12-17 February 1998

1. In the northern region 54 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar, Rawanduz, Baibo and Ayn Zalah.

2. In the southern region 739 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Habbariyah, Basrah, Hayy, Shatrah, Amarah, Diwaniyah, Rifa'i, Nukhayb, Qal'at Salih, Taqtaqanah, Ali al-Sharqi, Abu Sukhayr and Qal'at Sukkar.

3. Three violations were committed by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 1235, 1300, 1430, 1750, 0936, 1138, 1245, 1000, 1223, 1428 and 1430 hours on 9, 10, 11 and 13 February 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace in the Umm Qasr area.